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Japan on the 11th of May and the disturbances which wrought, almost simultaneously, such destruction on the Peruvian coast, and were unquestionably the cause of the tidal waves, whose effects were noticed in such equally remote places as Hawaii and the eastern shores of the Australian continent.

— In the San Joaquin and other valleys to the southwestward the plains are so parched that the whole surface of the earth presents the appearance of an ash bank. Even the ground-squirrels are deserting the plains and moving up toward the foot-hills in search of food. The Indians regard this migration as indicative of an approaching wet winter. — R. E. C. S.

— Specimens of silver ore recently taken from the Cerro de Pasco silver mines in Peru show that the submerged portion of the mountain is very rich, and a rough estimate indicates that a body of ore will be exposed by the new tunnel which Meiggs, the South American railroad king, is to build, worth from three hundred million to five hundred million dollars. These mines have laid under water for fifty years, and are scarcely known to the present generation, though they had been worked for two hundred and fifty years, when the miners had to stop on account of the water. Peru has now discovered that a tunnel can be built which will drain the mountain completely by drawing off the lake from which the water in the mine comes; the first loads of the now submerged ore are expected to reach Lima in four months. It is predicted that within ten years more silver will be taken out than from the silver mines in Nevada. This tunnel will in importance be a rival to the famous Sutro tunnel, which is to drain the great Comstock lode of Nevada, though the latter is of much greater extent. — R. E. C. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. — The twenty-sixth meeting of the association was held at Nashville, Tenn., beginning August 29th and ending September 4th,— the first gathering of the association in a Southern city for nineteen years. One hundred and seventy members and fellows were in attendance, and about two hundred and twenty new members were elected; thirty were added to the list of fellows. Although the number of fellows and members present was less than at some former meetings, the number of new members added was considerably above the average, and the papers read will compare favorably in point of number and quality with those of previous sessions. The reception tendered by the citizens of Nashville to the association could scarcely have been more cordial or appreciative, while the greatest harmony and good feeling characterized the deliberations of the meetings. The reason for the rather smaller attendance than usual is not far to seek, being evidently due in part to the great

distance of the place of meeting from the homes of most of the members, and to the fact that at this season of great heat the tendency is toward migration in the direction of the pole rather than the equator. The almost unbounded hospitality tendered the association by the authorities and citizens of Nashville and neighboring cities will make the session one long to be remembered by the members whose good fortune it was to be present, while the meeting must tend to stimulate scientific pursuits in the South and cement more closely the lovers of science and learning of all sections. As the president happily remarked in his response to the address of welcome by Judge J. M. Lea (in behalf of the governor of Tennessee, who was necessarily absent), nothing of a political nature estranges from each other the lovers of science, and consequently at this first meeting of the association in a Southern city since internal dissensions so sorely rent our country no reconciliations were necessary. At the close of the meeting of the association the members, by invitation, made an excursion to Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain, a portion of them extending the trip to Central Alabama, reaching Nashville on their return on Saturday, September 8th.

In the absence of the retiring president, Prof. William B. Rogers, the meeting was called to order by Prof. James Hall, who introduced the president-elect, Prof. Simon Newcomb. Owing to illness Professor Rogers had been unable to prepare the customary address expected from the retiring president. The address of the vice-president of Section B (geology and natural history), Prof. O. C. Marsh, on the Introduction and Succession of Vertebrate Life in America, was, from the nature of the subject and the high authority of the author on all matters relating to this important question, *the* event of the natural history section. Passing rapidly over the lower groups, Professor Marsh spoke more particularly of the higher vertebrates, these being the most important witnesses of the past, since through their higher organization they were more susceptible to the influences of slight climatic changes which would otherwise have remained unrecorded. They further possess interest inasmuch as they more closely approach man in their structure, and thus throw light upon his probable origin.

The address of the vice-president of Section A, Prof. E. C. Pickering, who was unable to be present, was read by the temporary chairman, Professor Thurston, the subject being The Endowment of Research. With the man of science there is generally little or no pecuniary reward for his success. Consequently he is obliged to engage in some other occupation, generally teaching, which still allows a little time for research. If these same men were able to devote their entire energies to investigation, and were aided by the necessary appliances, far more would be accomplished. The solution of the matter was organization, the carrying out of a plan by which researches should be rendered as systematic as the process of mechanical arts. A plan was proposed

for an institution for making researches; an ideal building suited to such a purpose was described, and a corps of trained investigators of acknowledged scientific ability, headed by a president and aided by a large body of assistants and workmen, was suggested.

The chairman of the subsection of anthropology, Dr. Daniel Wilson, being also unavoidably absent, his able address on Races in America was read by Permanent Secretary Putnam. The author in this address referred to the rich field America offers to archaeologists, and called special attention to subjects of inquiry demanding the closest investigation.

Capt. W. H. Dall, who was appointed last year a committee on zoological nomenclature, presented an elaborate report on this subject. The report was highly commended and referred by vote to the standing committee, with a request for its publication.

Invitations were received to meet next year at St. Louis, Mo., and at St. Paul, Minn. The former place was chosen, where the meeting will open August 21, 1878. The following general officers were elected for the next meeting: president, Prof. O. C. Marsh, of New Haven; vice-president of Section A, Prof. R. H. Thurston, of Hoboken, N. J.; vice-president of Section B, A. R. Grote, of Buffalo, N. Y.; chairman of the sub-section of chemistry, Prof. F. W. Clarke, of Cincinnati, O.; chairman of the sub-section of microscopy, Dr. G. S. Blackie, of Nashville, Tenn.; permanent secretary, F. W. Putnam, of Cambridge; general secretary, Dr. H. Carrington Bolton, of Hartford, Conn.; secretary of Section A, F. E. Nipher, of St. Louis, Mo.; secretary of Section B, Dr. George Little, of Atlanta, Ga.; treasurer, William S. Vaux, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The following is a list of the papers read relating to geology, zoölogy, botany, anthropology, and microscopy: Aug. R. Grote, Our Knowledge of the Cotton Worm; A New Lepidopterous Insect Injurious to Vegetation; An International Scientific Survey; J. W. Powell, The Structure of Eruptive Mountains; William Bross, All Life conditionally Immortal; Thomas Meehan, On Sex in Flowers; Miss Virginia K. Bowers, The Law of Repetition; Burt G. Wilder, On the Respiration of Amia; Homer F. Basset, Agamous Reproduction among the Cynipidæ; N. S. Shaler, On the Original Connection of the Eastern and Western Coal-Fields of the Ohio Valley; On the Continuation of the Folds of the Alleghany Chain to the North of the Delaware River; A. C. Campbell, On the Mechanics of the Flight of Birds; Mrs. H. R. Ingram, Atmospheric Concussion as a Means of Disinfection; J. M. Saford, On the Silurian Island of the Cincinnati Uplift with Reference to its Past in Tennessee; N. S. Shaler, On the Geographical and Geological Distribution of the Genus *Beatricea*, and of Certain Other Fossil Corals in the Rocks of the Cincinnati Group; T. O. Summers, Jr., Some Observations on the Skull of the Comanche; E. D. Cope, On the Classification of the Extinct Fishes of the Lower Types; J. W. Powell, Overplacement;

N. S. Shaler, On the Recent Formation of a Small Anticlinal Axis in Lincoln County, Kentucky ; E. D. Cope, On the Origin of Structural Variation ; A. R. Grote and W. H. Pitt, New Specimens from the Water Lime Group at Buffalo ; Samuel J. Wallace, On Geodes and Other Fossiloids ; James E. Todd, On the Annual Deposits of the Missouri River during the Post-Pliocene ; Ernst Gundlach, A New Periscopic Eye-Piece ; Alexis A. Julien, Accessories adapted to Lithological Investigation ; George W. Morehouse, Objectives as Illuminators ; C. Leo Mees, On the Use of Ordinary Low-Power Objectives for Photography ; R. H. Ward, On the Cellular Structure of Dentine ; On a Modification of Wenham's Reflex Illuminator ; T. O. Summers, Jr., On the Relative Values of the Powers of Objectives and Eye-Pieces ; T. Sterry Hunt, Notes on the Silurian Waters of Washoe, Nevada ; Shuze Isawa, On the Origin of the Japanese ; Garrick Mallery, The Former and Present Numbers of our Indians ; Henry Gillman, Additional Facts concerning Artificial Perforations of the Cranium in Ancient Mounds in Michigan ; Edwin A. Barber, Habits of the Moqui Tribe ; J. W. Powell, Some Popular Errors concerning the North American Indians ; Alexis A. Julien, On the Ancient Excavations of Western North Carolina ; H. N. Rust, Report on the Exploration of the Graves of the Mound Builders in Scott and Mississippi Counties, Missouri ; J. W. Powell, Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages ; Joseph B. Killebrew, Geology and Topography of the Oil Regions of Tennessee and the Oil Springs and Wells ; T. Sterry Hunt, Notes on the Geology of the Rocky Mountains ; James M. Safford, Notes of a Specimen of *Cyrtodonta ventricosa* from the Lower Silurian ; A. E. Wetherby, The Variation of Certain Fresh-Water Mollusks of the United States, and their Geographical Distribution ; J. H. Huntington, Geology of the Region on the Head Waters of the Androscoggin River ; E. D. Cope, On the Characters of a New Cretaceous Saurian from the Rocky Mountains ; E. L. Drake, A Section of McKinny Hill, Tennessee ; B. S. Hedrick, On the Use to be made of Post Route Maps in the Advancement of Science : E. T. Cox, Geological Position and Mode of Origin of Hydrated Brown Oxide of Iron ; R. L. Kirkpatrick, On the Relation of Organ to Function, or of Form in General to Mode of Energy received and exerted ; James A. Ridley, On the Fibre of *Gossypium herbaceum* (cotton plant) considered with Reference to a Practical Application of its Manufacture.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.¹

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. — August. Across Europe and Asia. Traveling Notes (Part II.), St. Petersburg to Perm, by John Milne. A Sketch of the Geology of Keighley, Skipton, and Grassington, by J. R. Dakyns. Notes on the Correlation of the Beds

¹ The articles enumerated under this head will be for the most part selected.